

# REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



**To:** Edina Transportation Commission

**Agenda Item #:** VI. A.

**From:** Mark K. Nolan, AICP, Transportation Planner

**Action** ☐

**Date:** July 16, 2015

**Discussion** ☐

**Information** ☒

**Subject:** Hennepin County 2040 Bicycle Transportation Plan Presentation

## Action Requested:

None.

## Information / Background:

Hennepin County, in participation with Three Rivers Park District and with the assistance of a consultant team, recently completed and adopted their 2040 Bicycle Transportation Plan. City of Edina engineering staff was represented on the Plan's Project Advisory Group. Several commissioners have expressed an interest in learning more about the Plan and how it may affect Edina's transportation system and future planning efforts.

The 2040 Bicycle Transportation Plan lays out a vision that emphasizes ways to make bicycling safe and comfortable for people of all ages and abilities. The Plan guides how, where and when the County and the parks district will build bikeways, and outlines an integrated system that will be developed through 2040.

Attached is the executive summary of the Plan. For the full 2040 Bicycle Transportation Plan please visit the website at <http://www.hennepin.us/bikeplan>. Bob Byers and Kelley Yemen of Hennepin County will give a presentation of the County's Bicycle Plan and will answer commissioners' questions regarding the same.

## Attachments:

2040 Bicycle Transportation Plan Executive Summary

# Executive Summary

## Hennepin County bicycling vision:

*Riding a bicycle for transportation, recreation, and health is a comfortable, fun, routine part of daily life throughout the county for people of all ages and abilities.*

## Bike plan purpose

Hennepin County envisions a future where residents are healthy and successful, living in safe and vibrant communities. A robust on- and off-street bikeway system serving all ages and abilities that complements other transportation modes and land use will play a significant role in achieving this vision, promoting economic strength, quality of life, and community vitality.

The Hennepin County Bicycle Transportation Plan updates the 1997 Bicycle Plan to guide how, where and when the county and Three Rivers Park District build bikeways and support facilities. It sets the expectation that all people should be comfortable and safe while biking.

## Why bicycling?

Bicycling accounts for 2.5 percent of all trips in Hennepin County, more than double the national average. Ridership is increasing rapidly while driving nationwide has been steadily decreasing since 2007.

With the expectation that these trends will continue, the county and park district are committed to creating a bicycle environment that meets the needs of people currently biking and those who will be new to biking. A robust, well-used bicycle network benefits far more people than just the person bicycling today.

A good bikeway system creates the following benefits:

**Safety:** The bikeway system will help reduce crashes by providing a more interconnected network with fewer gaps and more separation from motor vehicles.

**Livability:** Increasing transportation options helps achieve broader community goals such as improved access to jobs, neighborhood schools, and community services.

**Mobility:** Bicycling increases mobility and allows people of all ages to reach more destinations throughout the county.

**Economic sustainability:** Bicycling is an affordable transportation option that reduces the cost of transportation for everyone, including the one-third of people who do not drive, seniors, people with disabilities, children, and low-income populations.

**Health:** Bicycling provides an opportunity for residents to make physical activity a routine part of daily life.

**Clean air:** Bicycling helps reduce Hennepin County's carbon footprint, improve air quality and reduce harmful pollutants.

**Recreation:** Bicycling remains among the top three desired recreation activities in Metropolitan Council surveys, especially among older residents.

**Parking and congestion alleviation:** Bicycling benefits more than just the person biking, it also benefits those who drive.

**Regional economic competitiveness:** Supporting bicycling helps keep and attract talented residents who seek to live, work and play in a vibrant community that embraces their values. Bicycling infrastructure also brings in tourism spending.

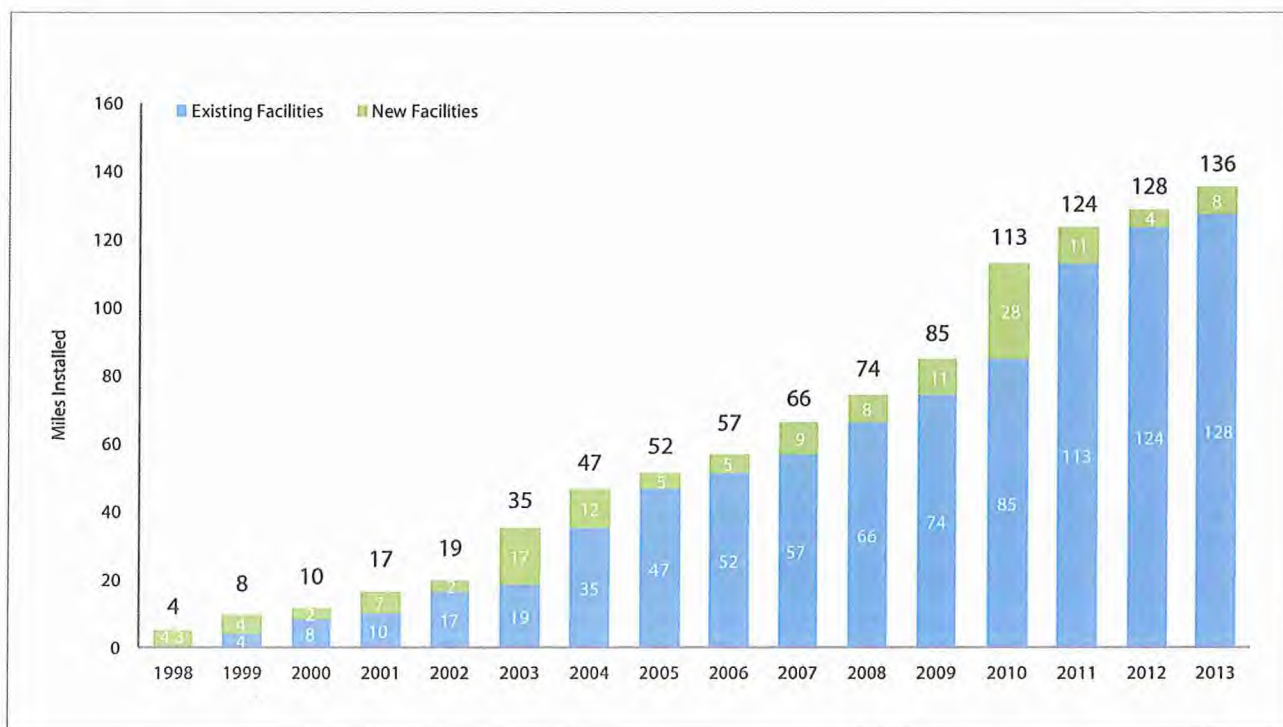


Figure i. Bikeway system implementation by Hennepin County, 1998-2013

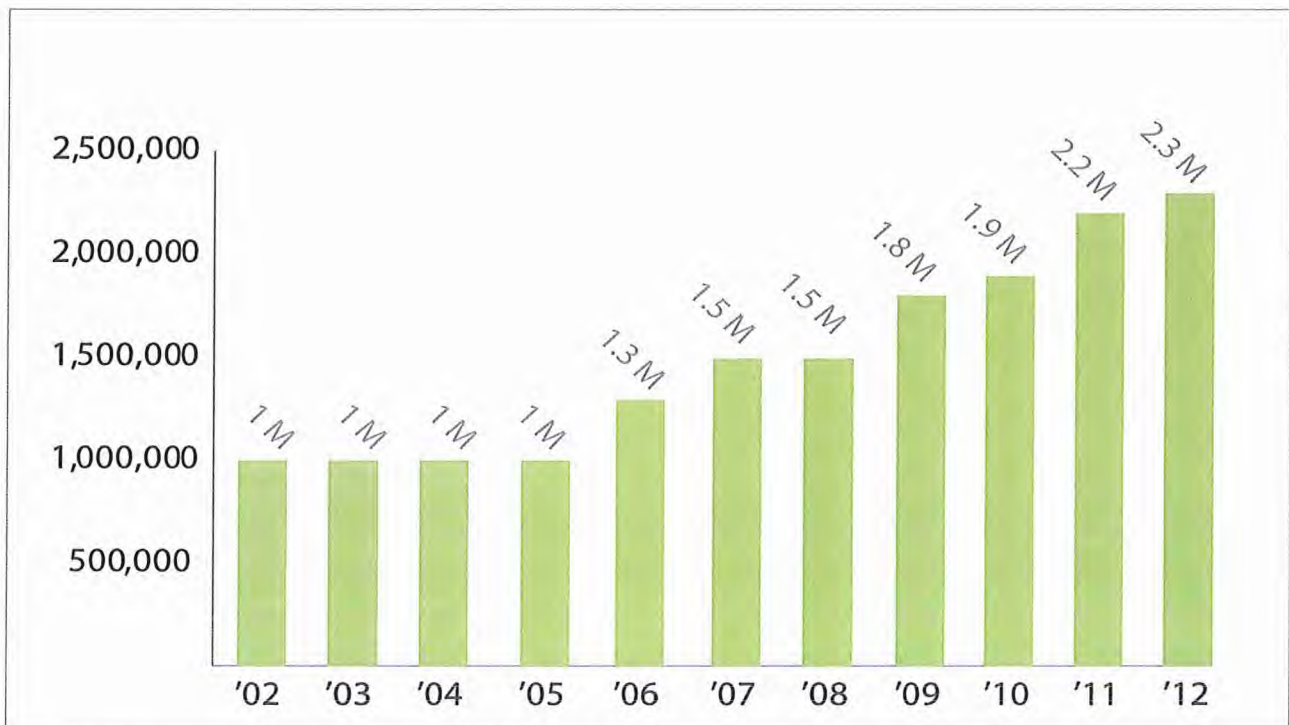


Figure ii. Three Rivers Park District regional trail visits by bicycle, 2002-2012.

The county and park district take great pride in the current bikeway system and will continue to improve it by pursuing the following goals:

### **RIDERSHIP GOAL**

**Promote the bicycle** as a mode of transportation that is **practical, convenient, and pleasant** for commuting, health and exercise, and outdoor recreation.

### **BIKEWAY SYSTEM GOAL**

Collaboratively build an **integrated county bicycle system** that allows bicyclists of varying skills to **safely, efficiently and comfortably connect** to and between all destinations within the county.

### **SAFETY AND COMFORT GOAL**

Create a **safe and comfortable** county bikeway system.

### **SUSTAINABILITY GOAL**

Implement bikeways and support facilities as an essential tool in **realizing environmental, social and economic sustainability**.

### **MAINTENANCE GOAL**

**Protect** the county's and the park district's **investments** in the bikeway system and **reduce seasonal hazards** through partnerships.

By 2040, Hennepin County and Three Rivers Park District will...

**Quadruple** the number of **bicycle commuters** from 2010's 12,000 people to **48,000** people by 2040.

**Halve bicycle crashes** per capita from 2010 levels by 2040 and move **toward zero deaths** on bicycle.

Bring the ratio of **bike commuters** who are **women** to half.

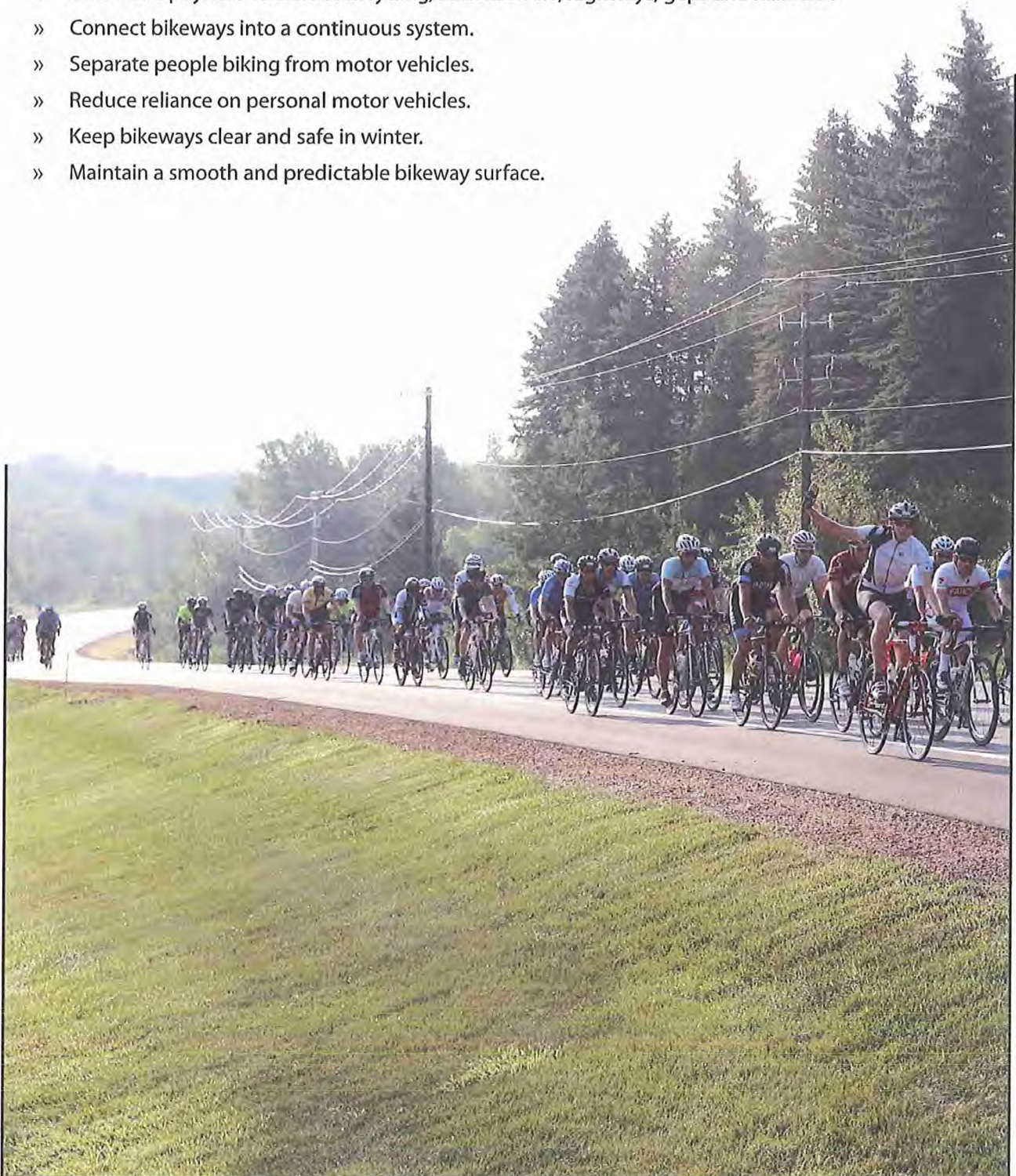
**Complete** an average of **20 miles** of the bikeway system **each year**.

Will have a bikeway within **½ mile of 90 percent** homes in Hennepin County.

## What People Want

Hennepin County and Three Rivers Park District reached out to 2,700 people to get their opinion on how to improve bicycling in Hennepin County. They said:

- » Overcome physical barriers to bicycling, such as rivers, highways, gaps and railroads.
- » Connect bikeways into a continuous system.
- » Separate people biking from motor vehicles.
- » Reduce reliance on personal motor vehicles.
- » Keep bikeways clear and safe in winter.
- » Maintain a smooth and predictable bikeway surface.



# Hennepin County 2040 Bikeway System

The existing bikeway system includes 651 miles of on- and off-street bikeways. The 2040 Bikeway System includes 540 miles of new planned bikeways, with almost half of the added system off-street. Implementing the 2040 Bikeway System will require ongoing political and public support to build an average of 20 miles of bikeway each year.

**Table i: Annual mileage target for full system build-out**

	Three Rivers Park District	Hennepin County	Planned system
Off-street bikeways	7.2	1.9	<b>9.1</b>
On-street bikeways		11.5	<b>11.5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>20.6</b>

